

Department of Defense, Veterans & Emergency Management,
Military Bureau

240TH ENGINEER GROUP



240TH ENG GRP Monthly Newsletter

7-8 January 2006

1	GROUP CDR	4	Admin Notes
	Comments		
1-2	CSM Comments	5	Readiness Notes
2-3	HHC Comments	5	Supply Notes
3	1SG Comments	5-6	Article
3-4	Chaplain Notes		



HHC 240th DRILLS

15-16 OCT 05	4-5 FEB 06	3-4 JUN 06
5-6 NOV 05	4-5 MAR 06	15-16 JUL 06
10-11 DEC 05 (muta 4)	1-2 APR 06	5-6 AUG 06 (muta 3)
7-8 JAN 06	5-7 MAY 06 (muta 5)	9-10 SEP 06

ATTENTION: YOUR ORDERS FOR MOBILIZATION AND AT ARE ENCLOSED IF APPLICABLE

**FROM THE GROUP
COMMANDER**

Soldiers of the 240th Engineer Group – As we continue to prepare for our deployment, I want to encourage you to be confident in your abilities for this mission. You each bring unique skills to the Group, and we will call on each of those skills by the time our mission is complete. You have my best wishes for a great Holiday season with your families.

LTC Les Swartz
CJTF Chamberlain
Commanding



FROM THE GROUP CSM

**MANAGING THE PACE OF
CHANGE**

By: CSM Paul E. Luce

I had a nice “lengthy” conversation with CSM Rod Craddock yesterday. He’s the CSM of the 18th Brigade in Afghanistan. He impressed me with his openness and candor about the challenges of our mission(s) and his clear concern about soldier welfare. I sensed that he understood that the individual who coined the phrase...”Mission first, soldiers always” was dyslexic.

He shared that our focus should be on “individual/ skills training.” He related that...”Accomplishing a

specific mission or assignment just seems to happen when everyone knows his or her individual job.” Doesn’t that make sense? He also related that ...”Having a Guard replacement for our Brigade is a good thing. You can bring to the fight a tremendous inventory of civilian skills that’ll add value and make it much easier to accomplish your missions.”

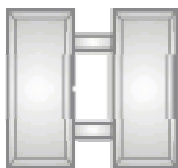
CSM Craddock will be putting me in his back pocket for about 10 days when we get to Afghanistan. He’ll be showing me the ropes and walking/talking me through my tasks, and that’ll be the underlying tenet for literally all of the 240th Group leadership. You see; the “Transfer of Authority” for mission continuation won’t be a quick

handoff, but rather a well-thought-out hand over.

With the Holiday Season behind us and the challenges of the future at our doorstep, now is the time to get our game faces on. As CSM Craddock related..."Your soldiers are about to embark on a venture that'll stick with them for the rest of their lives. Make sure that your soldiers are prepped and focused, and things will be fine."

As I said at our family gathering on December 12th, LTC Swartz and I have high expectations for a meaningful and successful deployment. We pledge to you and your families that the leadership will stay focused to keep you focused, and as CSM Craddock offered, things will be fine.

Take care!



OUTGOING HHC COMMANDER

Hello HHC,

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. With the January Drill comes our preparation for AT and our deployment to Camp Atterbury and on to theatre.

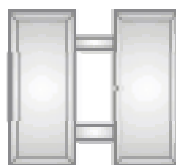
During the January drill we will welcome a new Company Commander, CPT Crockett. He is eager to assume command of HHC and will lead this company faithfully over the coming months.

It has been the high point of my military career serving as your

commander for the last several years. I would like to thank all of you for the Essayons attitude and spirit that you have exhibited during the time I have been with HHC. It is a humbling experience to stand before such a professional group, as the soldiers of HHC.

As your Commander I would ask that HHC continue to set the standard others will aspire to and that we will be judged by.

Essayons,
CPT Damon



INCOMING HHC COMMANDER

Incoming HHC Commander

The next year will present various challenges for both those who are deploying and the people who keep the fires burning on the home front. Prior to commencing the mobilization it is vital to know the soldiers who we will stand beside to meet these challenges. As the incoming HHC Commander, the most crucial personal information I can share is my philosophy on how our unit should operate. The foundation of our unit will be based on a few simple tenets that will result in a successful deployment.

1. The bond between soldiers is what carries the unit to success.

2. Adhering to fundamentals makes complex problems simple.

3. "Lean forward in the foxhole." (Be pro-active and take the initiative.)

4. "Keep your musket clean and your blade sharp." (Pay attention to the details.)

5. In the back of your mind always remember what you value most and let that guide you in your conduct.

6. The better idea should prevail regardless of the source.

The fact our unit is comprised of many new faces, mine included, presents us with the unique opportunity to bring an assortment of experiences to the table and gel together as a Team. Despite the positives that come with building a new unit our efforts could be hindered by unfamiliarity. In order to remedy this possible detractor please take the time at the January drill to introduce yourself to myself and others you have not yet met. In closing, let me express my appreciation to LTC Swartz for allowing me the opportunity to take Command, CPT Damon for assisting me during the transition and the NCO's for their patience in the process. We will have a safe and successful deployment. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you.

"Bayonet Forward"

Jarrold Crockett

CPT, Infantry

FIRST SERGEANT

240th EN GP

Hello to all men/women and families of Maine's premier Engineer community of

Command/Control Soldiers. I trust all is well with you as we “together” prepare for AT (Jan12-22), MOB (Jan 25), and ultimate deployment.

I will make this commitment to you and to the MeARNG: I stand ready to serve you and this Nation by personally being the best prepared Soldier that I can be. We can be physically ready by increasing our daily/weekly physical activity and by watching what and more importantly HOW MUCH of what we eat. We can prepare our minds by reading about this far away land we’re deploying to. Our families will be encouraged by our actions as we ready for whatever duty/service may lie ahead.

We are Task Force Chamberlain. Volunteer Soldiers from throughout Maine, who will by our service, make a positive and lasting contribution to the history of a conflict/hardship that has all but been forgotten by our friends and neighbors, but not by the people we are helping.

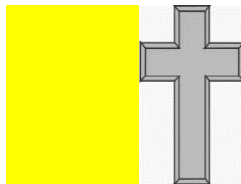
Before departure, as we look toward the New Year challenge some apprehension lies ahead. I believe this apprehension will be overcome as we “together” clear the early hurdles of AT and MOB Station environments, and take from Camp Atterbury Unit cohesion/momentum into theatre.

Before departure, it will not be an easy separation from our individual/family lives here in Maine without great sadness and some grief. As a husband, a father, and a brother, I strongly encourage you to spend needed time w/family/friends for they provide our purpose, hope, and stability. As your First Sergeant I promise to be tireless in my effort to provide you opportunity, and time to stay connected to our loved ones. I will seek/strive to maintain a work and life ethic that has worked well for me as impressed upon me by my father a fellow US Army Soldier:

1. Work first play later
 2. Improve life/land daily
- In closing, let’s all set individually realistic but high “reach” expectations. The 18 BD HHC 1SG comments; “much time is spent conducting ongoing Unit Level Training Events: i.e. Ranges, CTT, Quick Reaction Force (QRF),

Convoy, and regular Camp duty assignments.”

SOLDIERS ALWAYS
1SG Bernard



THE CHAPLAIN’S WORD

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

A miser was visited by the angel of death. “You are due at the Pearly Gates, tomorrow morning at 8:00,” the angel said. He continued, “You may bring with you all that you can carry.”

The angel disappeared and the miser set to work, trying to figure out what

he would bring with him into eternity. He had spent his whole life collecting gold bars, and now he had more than six men could carry. But he also wanted to bring some sentimental items. There was a picture of his wife, a small vase that his daughter had made for him almost fifty years ago, and various knickknacks that his grandchildren had given him over the years. How could he carry it all? He gathered up his memorabilia in his arms and then grabbed about two gold bars – all he could. But he could not just leave all that gold behind. So he put down his grandchildren’s gifts and picked up another bar. Still he couldn’t bear to part with that gold, so he put down his daughter’s vase and picked up another bar. Then, he put down his wife’s picture and picked up another bar. Then he had an idea! He went and got an old rucksack from his attic. He filled it with the gold bars and then picked up all he could carry. In all, it was nearly two hundred pounds. Barely able to move, he started the long journey to Heaven. He had to climb a giant ladder and walk many miles. A few times, he almost put a few bars down, and after seven hours of this, he was ready to cast it all away. But then, he saw them! The beautiful gates of heaven, shimmering with light. As he approached, the gates slowly opened to reveal the angel waiting for him.

“Well,” said the angel as the man neared, “what did you decide to bring to eternity?” The miser smiled. He dropped the gold bars on the ground and then took off the back pack and poured its contents on the ground as well. There were probably twenty gold

bars and he was proud. The angel looked at the bars on the ground and then back at the miser with a quizzical look on his face. He looked back at the gold bars and then back at the miser.

“You brought PAVEMENT?”

Many of you know the tradition that the streets of Heaven are paved with gold. Our miser apparently missed that part of the bible. You see, he thought he was wealthy, but in heaven all the things he truly treasured were worthless as pavement. He gave up what he should have truly kept: the gifts from his family and the mementos of those whom he loved. Many of you now reading this will be mobilized and deployed in the next few weeks and we will be gone for over a year. What will you take with you? What will you leave with your families that has true value? Make sure that all who love you know how much you love them. Make sure that that which you bring with you is of true value and cannot be diminished. Trust in God to keep us, to love us, and to bring us home safely.

This will be my last newsletter for a while; I am going too. May God's blessings be upon us and the Mountain Company as we go, and upon the 152nd Maintenance Company as they return in Spring. I'll see you in a year!

CH Andy Gibson
240th Group Chaplain

S1 Notes

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas Holiday. There are still a few troops that need to bring in documents for the mobilization. In most cases this will affect your pay, so get those documents turned in. Another very important thing for you to track is your evaluations. If you have come from another unit or

have been with the 240th Engineer Group follow-up with your supervisor to ensure your OER, NCOER or E4 evaluation has been completed. If you are a supervisor, take care of your troops. If you don't get these done it will become increasingly difficult to complete these as time goes by. Completing the evaluations now will also save a lot of time for the unit staff tracking and pushing to get these done.

See you at drill,

SFC Donlon

SUPPLY

As we go thru this weekend please be detailed and thorough as you inventory and document your equipment and load cards for this deployment. You need to know where your equipment is and what container it is in.

If you have any issues or questions call
626-4514
SFC Joseph Young

READINESS NCO

DETAILS FOR DRILL WEEKEND

7-8 Jan 06

ATTENTION NCO's AND ABOVE:

***Due to the amount of work
we have to accomplish on
Saturday all E5 and above
please report to room 209 at
6 am Saturday morning.
You will be briefed the
weekend and on Packing/
Loading procedures.***

**ALL SOLDIERS MUST
COMPLETE ANTI-
TERRORISM TRAINING AT
THE FOLLOWING ON LINE
LINK**

WWW.AT-AWARENESS.ORG

**AND SUBMIT A
CERTIFICIATE TO SFC
GRIMSHAW**

Section Sergeants need to start preparing initial counseling DA 4856's soldiers in their respective sections. All soldiers need have on their person their dog tags.

**YOUR ADDRESS WHILE AT
CAMP ATTERBURY IS AS
FOLLOWS**

**240th Engr Group
SOLDIERS NAME
CAMP ATTERBURY
JMTC
P.O. BOX 5000
EDINBURGH, INDIANA
46124-5000**

Some Family Support Information
The website is as follows

http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/family/Family_Pages/240th/default.htm

PHONE NUMBERS

***Family Assistance Center
1-888-365-9287***

**Your Family Unit Coordinator
is
Mrs Michelle Fate
453-0059**

SFC Grimshaw
at 626- 4541,
my cell at 446-3825
or email at
sean.grimshaw @us.army.mil

SFC Sean Grimshaw

S-3 NOTES

The S-3 Section of the Group has aligned its TOE Positions with the structure in TF SWORD. In this process we wish to welcome MAJ. Darveau back to the S-3 as the Assistant S-3. We will also be welcoming LT Stickney to the Section as the Ground/Air Movement Officer. The section has been working on the general responsibilities of each position and this will be briefed during the weekend.

Operational Issues for the Section:

The Week of January 3rd the Section will be vetting the 18th BDE TACSOP and publishing revision as the 240th TACSOP.

January 9 & 10 the S-3 will be at FT DRUM meeting the 10th MTN DIV (CJTF-76) Deputy Commander for Support, CSM, and Chief of Staff.

The Week of January 9th the Section will be drafting TF Chamberlain OPOD number 1.

The Mission tasking for the S-3 ADVON to theater will be determined and selection of personnel will be completed prior to 21JAN05.

LTC MORTON

NOTES FROM SGM HARRIS

Hi everyone! I'm writing this on the 22nd of December, which is exactly one month before our Mob Date... I firmly believe that this next month will be pretty much a blur... We'll all wake up one morning and find we're at the Annual Training period, and then boarding a plane for Atterbury. Between now and then use every possible moment to spend time with your family. As we have all heard on several occasions, our families are the ones who will suffer most from this deployment. We will have our mission, and

something on a daily basis to keep us occupied, families will be dealing with the stress of us being gone, and not having us to help out around the house. We are being set up for success by the folks we're replacing; make sure to set your family up for success while we're gone.

Over the last few months, I have had the opportunity to meet a good portion of the soldiers in the "new" 240th Engineer Group, and I must say.... Wow! Soldiers are very focused, very willing to work together, and are creating an atmosphere for success already. I've been around for a few [;-)] years now and have had the opportunity to work with a lot of you, so I feel confident that this will be a positive experience for all of us.

I relate this mission a lot with the SIMEX exercises we've been through in the past. The obvious difference being the real world scenario we're going into. All of the missions we send out will have a direct impact for the civilians in that area, and the soldiers performing the missions will be subject to real world threats. Everything we do, every decision made has an impact on someone, and therefore the utmost consideration will be given in all aspects.

As we get closer to our final destination we will become more acquainted with each other, which will prove to be very important over the next year (+). I look forward to getting to know you all, and to work together to achieve success in our endeavors in theatre.. A Point to Ponder: The youngest soldier in the deployment is Specialist Zachary Casper born February 2nd 1987, and the oldest is CSM Paul Luce born August 1st, 1948. It's very fitting CSM Luce..

SGM Harris

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ARTICLE 1SG WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU

Mayor Wolf has some advice for success at FOB

Forward Operating Base Custer is not your typical American community.

The Soldiers here find themselves on patrols hunting insurgents and IEDs rather than strolling through the park or cruising down Main Street.

One facet of American life that remains unchanged however is the system of leadership.

Most new arrivals are surprised to learn that FOB Custer actually has a mayor and his duties are similar to those of a mayor a real American town.

"I didn't know that FOBs had mayors before I got here," said Sgt. Kenneth

Payne, 220th Transportation Company.

The 1413th Engineer Detachment just returned from Afghanistan, where they did construction work on forward operating bases.

"The training here is excellent, I've learned a lot of new things." The mayor of FOB Custer, Maj. Bob Wolf, has been here since late August and although the Army is not quite a democracy, he is responsible for the general welfare of all personnel residing here.

"The mayor of a FOB is an installation commander in a sense.

It's my job to make sure the FOB is maintained to standards from living arrangements to chow to the physical characteristics of the base," Wolf said.

"The one thing I would like to impress that he (Soldier) must become a team player. Soldiers must grasp the concept that people are depending on him and vice versa. If everyone could walk out of Camp Custer with that idea, their unit will do a more effective job and take far less casualties."

The theme at FOB Custer is to prepare units to deploy overseas for a specific theater. The exercises here are tailored specifically to resemble the type of atmosphere Soldiers may face in Iraq, Wolf said.

Maintaining the base and its combat zone environment is an ongoing task. Since its inception, FOB Custer has undergone many changes and improvements, Wolf said.

Some of the upgrades include an improvement to the road system, an additional logistical support area and a complete renovation to the entry control point.

As a forced protection measure, the base is constantly being "hardened," which means Soldiers can expect to be filling a few sandbags during their time.

In the future, the FOB will also add another protective bunker and another maintenance tent to enhance the base's effectiveness, Wolf said.

From reveille to retreat, Wolf and the cadre strive to make Soldiers' experiences as realistic as possible. "We've had guys come back and tell us that it's just like the FOBs over there with the scale being the only major difference. Soldiers can expect a lot of boredom followed up by a lot of excitement," said the mayor.

To increase a Soldier's chance of success at FOB Custer, Wolf offers several pieces of advice. "I would

encourage them to use this experience as an individual and as a Soldier to prepare themselves now so they won't experience cultural shock when they arrive in country. Camp Custer is a chain-of-command proving ground intended to solidify units so when the bullets start flying they can respond effectively to the ever-changing scenarios over there," Wolf said.

At any given time, FOB Custer accommodates hundreds of troops, who come together to form a community. While this community may not come close to a typical U.S. community, the mayor has the Soldier's best interest in mind.

BY RICK L. RZEPKA

124th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

